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Framework for How to Read and Critique a Research Study

1. Critiquing the research article
    a. Title – Does it accurately describe the article?
    b. Abstract – Is it representative of the article?
    c. Introduction – Does it make the purpose of the article clear?
    d. Statement of the problem – Is the problem properly introduced?
    e. Purpose of the study – Has the reason for conducting the research been explained?
    f. Research question(s) – Is/are the research question(s) clearly defined and if not, should they be?
    g. Theoretical framework – Is the theoretical framework described? If there is not a theoretical framework, should there be?
    h. Literature review – Is the literature review relevant to the study, comprehensive, and include recent research? Does the literature review support the need for the study?
    i. Methods – Is the design appropriate for the study? Does the sample fit with the research design and is the size sufficient? Was a data collection instrument needed? How were data collected? Were reliability and validity accounted for?
    j. Analysis – Is the analytical approach consistent with the study questions and research design?
    k. Results – Are the results presented clearly in the text, tables and figures? Are the statistics clearly explained?
    l. Discussion - Are the results explained in relationship to the theoretical framework, research questions, and the significance to nursing?
    m. Limitations – Are the limitations presented and their implications discussed?
    n. Conclusion – Are there recommendations for nursing practice, future research, and policymakers?
2. Determine the level and quality of the evidence using a scale (several can be found in ANA's Research Toolkit www.nursingworld.org/Research-Toolkit/Appraising-the-Evidence)
3. Decide if the study is applicable to your practice
    a. *Can you use the results and recommendations in your practice?*

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